

RAISING THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE!

OCTOBER 2007



CALL TO CREATIVITY

Not again, I thought, as yet another student made their way to stand at the back of the class. How can they be tired already? I still have thirty minutes left to teach. This practice of standing to keep you awake was slowly driving me crazy. I used to blame it on the hot weather... the cold weather... it was their fast day... they get up so early. Could it possibly have something to do with me?

We have all been there, frustrated with our students until the realization hits that maybe, just maybe, we were not as prepared as we should have been. Our teaching has become so predictable, mundane even. If you have had these thoughts, count yourself blessed. At least you are not an instructor who doesn't even notice the glazed eyes.

"As student teachers for the Master Teacher, we must seek to reflect His every attribute-not just love and truth and mercy, which commonly form the basis for sermon topics, but also creativity. The Creator is our model. We must be creative teachers" (Creative Teaching Methods, Marlene D. Lefever, p.12).

Go ahead. Say it. "I must be creative!" Now change it. "I am creative!" We all have creativity within as the Word says we were made in His likeness. The challenge is to get it without.

Breaking Patterns

"The old patterns seem so much

more right. Yet, they might not be; they might be just more familiar" (Lefever, p.16). In order to stir up your creative powers, you must be willing to step out of your comfort zone. Try a new method of teaching. Or just add an element of surprise. If you are to begin studying Proverbs, why not dress a student up with a crown and a beautiful cloth. Get him to read various proverbs that the class can then discuss. Sound silly? Perhaps, but I can assure you no one will be standing at the back of the class and they will remember the lesson long beyond that term.

Having said all that, remember in our efforts to be more creative, we sometimes accept an idea too soon. Ask yourself, is this idea helping to fulfill my lesson aim? If not, keep thinking!

The "DO IT" Rule

It has been said, "Perspiration oils inspiration" meaning creativity is just plain old hard work. There are no short cuts. The Christian's creativity is optimized by our spiritual disciplines.

As we draw close to God, He breathes something into our spirits. He inspires us. Inspiration and creativity both come from the same root word as breath, Spirit, and wind. You want to be creative? Pray... then do it! Pick a new idea and try it.

Challenge the Familiar

If you are still reading, you probably

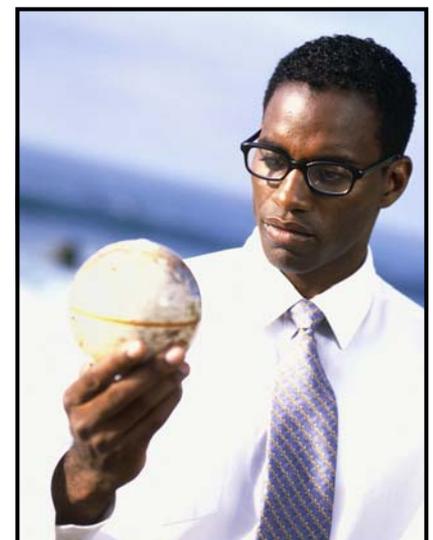
do want to become more creative. The desire is probably there, so you are on your way. That desire can free you to step out of your pattern and challenge the familiar. Who says class starts with prayer, includes fifty minutes of lecture and then homework is assigned? Maybe class includes a revelation of water baptism by immersion in the name

Creativity is a gift that we have from God, and it's a gift that we can give back to Him.

of Jesus. Maybe class includes someone being healed while hearing a lesson on the blood. Perhaps class includes someone receiving a call to a specific village, town, city or

another country! Another country??? Remember...Challenge the Familiar! We will grow as instructors—our students will grow because they have been inspired.

The Creator is our model. We must be creative teachers.



Ordinary Is Not So Ordinary

It's true. Creativity is not just a characteristic of great people, but it's a characteristic of every human being. However, some of us just have ordinary creativity. Maybe we will never write a best-seller. Maybe we will never be that sought after evangelist or preacher. However, did you ever stop to think that you may be instrumental in the life of one who does have that extra touch of grace? Your willingness to teach with creativity and expose your students to creativity may birth a desire within the student to be more creative in their teaching attempts. Just maybe they will find a hidden talent...thanks to you. Ordinary is not so ordinary after all.

Let Loose the Limits

"Creativity is not a synonym for unlimited freedom" (Lefever, p. 20). In today's world of weird and wacky, the word "creativity" has been severely abused. We recognize as Christians that there are limits to what we do. But have we really explored excellence within those limits? Let loose those self-imposed limits. Pull yourself out of that, "I've always done" mentality. S-T-R-E-T-C-H!!

There is a call to creativity. "It's a gift that we have from God, and it's a gift that we can give back to Him" (Lefever, p. 19).

Pursuing Ministerial Excellence,



The mediocre teacher tells.

The good teacher explains.

Rev. Nicky Sisco
PRINCIPAL

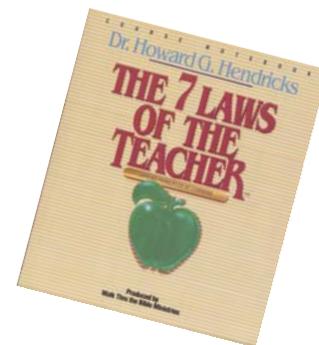
The great teacher demonstrates.

The superior teacher inspires.

Teacher Training Summit

Thursday & Friday, October 18th–19th, 2007

- ◆ Yegola Hotel Conference room: Thursday: 9AM–4PM.
Lunch will be served in the hotel restaurant for all participants.
- ◆ ACTS-GHANA, Year One classroom: Friday: 9AM–1PM.
- ◆ Course Notebooks will be provided along with other resources & materials.
- ◆ Get ready for the next level of learning!



Congratulations Sis. Colleen Carter

Sis. Carter has been officially approved by the Foreign Missions Board of the United Pentecostal Church International as a fully appointed missionary to Ghana. She hopes to begin deputation in February 2008.

We thank the Lord for seven years of faithful ministry and know that ACTS & UPCI–Ghana has been blessed because of her service to the Lord.

We rejoice over this wonderful news and pray that God will send her back quickly so she can continue to bless the work in Ghana and beyond.

